

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN  
STENY HOYER BECOMING LONG-  
EST SERVING MARYLAND REP-  
RESENTATIVE IN HISTORY

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, more than 26 years ago, the voters of Maryland's 5th Congressional District demonstrated their great wisdom in electing STENY HOYER to represent them in Congress. As he has now become the longest-serving member of the House of Representatives in Maryland history, we recognize that their trust has never been misplaced, as STENY HOYER has been a tremendous leader for both his district and for the nation.

This week, STENY continues his history of record breaking: when he was just 27 years old, he was elected to the Maryland Senate, and then subsequently became its youngest ever President. But what sets STENY apart is not the length of his leadership, but the quality of it. On issues crucial to his district, such as standing up for federal employees and protecting the beauty of the Chesapeake Bay, STENY has been a stalwart leader. On issues crucial to all Americans, such as education, the minimum wage, the rights of the disabled, and civil rights, he has achieved great progress.

As House Majority Leader, he plays a crucial role in developing and passing our legislation for a new direction for America. He is a skilled legislator and consensusbuilder. He is respected by our colleagues on both sides of the aisle for his savvy, intellect, and integrity.

STENY and I first met more than 40 years ago as interns in the United States Senate. Over the years, it has been a honor to see him as more than just an immensely skilled Member of Congress, but as a loving husband, proud parent, and devoted grandparent and now great-grandparent. It is a personal privilege to call him my colleague and my friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UCSF  
SCHOOL OF NURSING CENTENNIAL

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to recognize the Centennial Nursing Celebration at the University of California, San Francisco and to honor the University of California at San Francisco School of Nursing, the achievements of its alumni and faculty, and the leadership of nurses at UCSF Medical Center.

Nursing at the University of California began in the spirit of renewal that rebuilt San Fran-

cisco after the great 1906 earthquake and fire. Less than a year later, in April of 1907, the University opened its first teaching hospital in San Francisco, along with its first nursing education program. In 1939, the Regents formerly established the University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing—the Nation's first autonomous nursing school at a public university.

Today, the UCSF School of Nursing is consistently ranked among the top nursing schools in the world. UCSF developed the first master's and doctoral nursing programs in the western United States, and currently enrolls more than 600 students in these programs, making them among the largest in the Nation. The school's vision extends far beyond national borders, as exemplified by the scores of international students who come through its doors each year, and the UCSF World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Research and Clinical Training in Nursing.

Over the past century, UCSF has educated more than 10,000 nurses, many of whom have gone on to become health care leaders in California, throughout the country, and around the globe.

UCSF has also established itself as the Nation's preeminent nursing research institution. The school currently ranks first among nursing programs in research funding from the National Institutes of Health. Eight faculty members have been inducted into the Institute of Medicine, a larger number than at any other nursing school. UCSF continues to be on the cutting edge of nursing science—from heart disease and cancer, to pain management and healthy aging.

At UCSF Medical Center and the hospitals and clinics served by UCSF, nurses lead innovations in patient care, translational research, hospital safety, and support for patients and families coping with illness. Beyond the campus, UCSF provides care through a wide range of programs targeting at-risk and underserved populations.

As UCSF celebrates a century of excellence in nursing education, research, and patient care, I urge my colleagues to join me on this auspicious occasion by thanking UCSF nurses for all they have done and continue to do to improve the health care of San Franciscans, of Californians, and of people around the world.

RECOGNIZING MITCHEL WAYNE  
BUSH FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK  
OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mitchel Wayne Bush, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts

of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Mitchel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Mitchel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mitchel Wayne Bush for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Mitchel in the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD ROBINSON

**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a minute to pay tribute to a friend and staff member who will be leaving my employment soon. His name is Richard Robinson, my Chief of Staff. He is a man possessing great loyalty and integrity.

I first met Richard when he interned for me when I was a State Senator in California. In 1991, he graduated from California Polytechnic State University and came to work for me as a full-time paid employee. It quickly became clear that Richard was a resourceful man whom I could count on for hard work, concise communication and keen strategic thinking. In January, 1991, I was elected to the United States House of Representatives, and I brought Richard with me to my Congressional office as a Field Representative.

In 1994, he married Jennifer Michele Edwards, and today they are the parents of three beautiful girls: Allison, Taylor and Lauryn. Richard is a wonderful father and dedicated husband, and I can understand why, after sixteen years of intense work for me, he has chosen to look to a new career path that may afford him a more predictable and flexible work schedule. Richard will be sorely missed, but knowing Jennifer and the children as I do, I can understand his decision.

I also know Richard to have a big heart. He was a night shift volunteer at the University of California Davis emergency room in 1999; he was a youth pastor of a high school Christian group from 1998 to 2003; and he was Director of Habitat for Humanity's Youth Build program in 1999.

In 2002, Richard graduated from Stanford University, ranking first in his class, with a Master of Arts degree in Education. He also earned a California teaching credential at the same time. I can only imagine how difficult it was for him to attend school and raise a family, but I am not surprised that Richard was successful. His mother, Melinda, tells me that he began reading as early as three years of age and was elected class president in the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

sixth grade at Rock Creek Grammar School. At Placer High School, he played soccer, but particularly excelled at basketball, a sport made for a man six feet five inches tall.

Richard's service to me has been notable because he has always been willing to put others ahead of himself. He has seen the benefit of developing a team based on strong relationships and mutual respect. Even at our most trying times, I always knew that Richard was acting with my best interests in mind.

As he looks to new opportunities, (and I know they will be numerous for a man of his talents) I wish him and his family much happiness and success.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL MARY  
GENE RYAN

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of my friend Colonel Mary Gene Ryan, who is retiring after 31 years of military service.

Colonel Ryan has served at both military bases in my district, Vandenberg Air Force Base and Naval Base Ventura County. She is retiring from the 30th Medical Group at Vandenberg as the Individual Mobilization Augmentee to the Commander.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in nursing, Colonel Ryan entered the U.S. Air Force as a Second Lieutenant. She earned her master's degree in public health 4 years later as she worked her way up the ranks and gained experience and accreditation as a second flight nurse, a medical crew director and flight nurse instructor in the C-9, C-141 and C-130 while stationed at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany.

She returned to the states as Officer In Charge of Environmental Health at Wilford Hall Medical Center in Texas, then made her transition to California as Chief of Environmental Health at Edwards Air Force Flight Test Center. By this time she had been promoted to captain and soon after, to major.

When the Air Force dissolved the Environmental Health Nurse career field, Colonel Ryan transferred to the California Air National Guard at what is now Naval Base Ventura County. She served at Naval Base Ventura County as Nurse Executive and Executive Officer and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

She later transferred to the Air Force Reserve and became Chief of Nursing Services at March Air Reserve Base. She was promoted to full Colonel on April 1, 2004.

While pursuing a successful medical military career, Colonel Ryan also worked in the civilian field and co-founded her own business, MGRyan & Co., Inc., a full-service safety and health consulting firm. She also served as Manager of Health & Safety for the County of Ventura and as Director of Occupational Health at Peterson Medical Clinic in Oxnard, California.

And, if that were not enough, Colonel Ryan is also a successful wife and mother. She and Dr. Robert E. Ryan III have three children, 24-year-old Michael, 21-year-old Jessica, and 16-year-old Matthew.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Colonel Mary Gene

Ryan on her retirement from military service and thank her for her many years of dedication to the military and the health and welfare of the men and women who serve in the Air Force, Air Force Reserves, and California Air National Guard.

TRIBUTE TO WEST VIRGINIA  
SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine as a leader in the study and practice of rural medicine.

The need for primary care physicians in rural areas is of great importance to our Nation's overall health care delivery system. These providers are often on the front lines of health care delivery and provide much needed care to our sick and elderly populations.

Since its first graduating class in 1978, the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine has countered this need by producing gifted physicians prepared to practice rural medicine.

In fact, nearly half of the school's graduates go on to serve in rural communities that are in desperate need of their care. Often understaffed and covering large geographic areas, these communities require accommodating physicians with a range of services.

Madam Speaker, as today's medical profession is glamorized in the public consciousness by popular television dramas it is the graduates of West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine who go on to serve in rural communities that deserve to be celebrated. I thank the school's students, faculty and staff for their service and wish them continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO SHELDON S.  
CRAMMER

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to sacrifice for our country through military service.

Sheldon S. Crammer of Conyers, Georgia answered the call and served our nation in time of war from 1942-1944.

On the beaches of Normandy and in the French Theater on the European continent, Sheldon S. Crammer displayed valor, determination, and calm and was wounded in the line of duty.

This remarkable and courageous man gave of himself, in defense of this Nation.

Sheldon S. Crammer is a soldier, a warrior, a father, a grandfather, a son, a brother, and a friend.

After many years, long overdue recognition of his service is being duly noted with the granting of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart in a special ceremony attended by his family, friends, and fellow veterans.

I was pleased to proclaim May 19, 2007 as Sheldon S. Crammer Day for his brave service to our country.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT ALEX-  
ANDER BORGARDTS FOR  
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE  
SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Robert Alexander Borgardts, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Robert has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Robert has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Robert Alexander Borgardts for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Robert in the United States House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE TO MILDRED LEIGH  
GOLD

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mildred Leigh Gold, a compassionate leader, a breast cancer survivor, and an advocate from the Fourth Congressional District. Mrs. Leigh Gold is recognized at the national, regional and local level for her work and achievements in the area of breast cancer awareness and treatment.

Mrs. Leigh Gold came to Milwaukee in 1969. She was immediately hired by Catholic Social Services and worked there for 18 years. She provided counseling, guidance and other assistance to central city youth from 2 community sites: the House of Peace and the Inner City Development Project. In 1989, Mrs. Leigh Gold was diagnosed with breast cancer and this life altering event led to a significant change in her career. She became active with the Breast Cancer Awareness Task Force Board.

In 1990, she accepted the challenge to design and implement the community-focused, City of Milwaukee Breast Cancer Awareness Program. This trailblazing, first-of-its-kind program took breast cancer screening services into underserved neighborhoods with a mobile van. The program has provided breast cancer screening service to over 27,000 women and reached many more women through its education awareness component. Public Health

Nurses were utilized to have one-on-one visits with women presenting with abnormal breast exams; and a network of nurturing physicians and relationships with hospitals were developed to ensure follow-up care. In fact, the rate of follow-up visits in this program with physicians was an impressive 98% compared to the national average of 30%. The program she designed and implemented has been replicated throughout the United States because it has achieved such impressive outcomes. Mrs. Leigh Gold, who is retiring in June, 2007, has guided this nationally recognized program for 17 years.

Mrs. Leigh Gold holds a bachelors degree in Social Welfare from A&T State University in Greensboro, North Carolina, a masters degree in Management from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as well as an LPN certificate. She has been married to Joe Gold for over 20 years.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Mildred Leigh Gold. Mrs. Leigh Gold's dedication to women's health care and her work to promote awareness and provide access to breast cancer treatment has truly been a life saver for many women in my district.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOE TRUSSO

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joe Trusso for his 37 years in public service. He was the representative of the southeast neighborhoods of the City of Jamestown in District 16. Mr. Trusso was first elected to the Chautauqua County Board of Supervisors/Legislature in 1971.

I would like briefly to touch on the many areas of service that Joe gave to our county. During his tenure, Mr. Trusso served as the chairman of the School-to-Work/Scholarship Subcommittee, Manpower Utilization, Finance, and Personnel/Human Services Committees. In addition to his current chairmanship of the Audit and Control Committee and vice chair, former chair, of the Public Facilities Committee, he has been a member of and chaired the Judicial and Public Safety and Public Works Committees. He has served on the Airport Commission, the Southern Tier West Board of Directors and Budget Watch Committees. He was also elected Democratic minority and majority leader. As a legislator, Mr. Trusso has authored Pre-Paid Capitalization Legislation and is the co-author of the Trusso-Beckman Debt Reduction Legislation that eliminated the county's long-standing debt.

I must also acknowledge Mr. Trusso's other interests. Joe served on the Resource Center and Allied Industries Board of Directors since 1967, where he is still serving as a special committee member, and has held several leadership positions. Mr. Trusso was the Assistant Director of the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department and served on the Jamestown Industrial Development and Commerce Committee. He is a member of St. James RC Church, Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, Samuel Derby Post American Legion, Knights of Columbus—Fourth Degree, Moose Club, Marco Polo Club, Lakewood Rod and Gun Club and the UAW Local #338

I am proud to mention that Mr. Trusso served his country from 1952–1956 in the United States Air Force (Korean War Veteran); Medical Field Service School and from 1956–1960 in the United States Air Force Reserves.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Joe on his wonderful job well done in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Joe, you will be missed by all of the constituents whose lives you touched. Enjoy your retirement!

#### HONORING HOWARD JONAS

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Howard Jonas is a very active supporter of several charities nationally and in his community and serves as a trustee on numerous university, hospital, religious, and social service organization boards.

These include New York Presbyterian Hospital, Shaarei Tzedek Hospital in Jerusalem, Jewish Guild for the Blind, Yeshiva College, AIPAC, Shema Kolainu for Autistic Children, American Friends of Yeshivat B'nei Akiva, Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Newark Public Library, International Rescue Committee, Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, American Friends of Shalva, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark Public Library, Riverdale Y, Digital Freedom Network, Tuoro College, Yeshivat Hovevei Torah, SAR, Eidah, Yeshivat Shmuel Yaakov, Fairness Committee, Voices and Bar Ilan University.

In addition Mr. Jonas has been the honorary chairman of The Beth Jacob/Beth Miriam Yeshiva for the past thirteen years. This is an incredible record of accomplishment for one person and I personally am in awe.

Howard is a local boy who graduated from Bronx High School of Science and went on to get a B.A. in Economics from Harvard University.

He also went on to revolutionize international telecommunications. At age 33, he found a way to supply the world with a U.S. dial tone and cheap international long distance rates, creating international "callback" telephone service, now an over a billion dollar a year industry.

Howard founded IDT in August 1990 and has served as Chairman of the Board and Treasurer since its inception. He was Chief Executive Officer from December 1991 to August 2001. IDT is known as a model of upstart entrepreneurship, continually innovating and looking for the next great cutting edge business opportunity.

He is also the founder and has been President of Jonas Publishing Corporation, a publisher of trade directories, since its inception in 1979.

Howard Jonas is a man who is generous in his help over a wide area and is someone who has made a significant difference in the life of his community.

IN HONOR OF CHRISSIE JAHN

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, Members of the House, I rise today to honor Chrissie Jahn, executive director and head of school for the International School of Monterey. Ms. Jahn has been recognized as the California International Education Advocate of the Year, a most deserving tribute to the important work she has done on behalf of Monterey County students.

Ms. Jahn is dedicated to providing a demanding curriculum to area families, offering her students an international education designed to prepare them for success in today's global economy. Ms. Jahn strives to supply her students with the skills necessary to succeed in life, and she approaches that role with an infectious energy.

Ms. Jahn excels at challenging her students, instilling in them a love of learning and a strong sense of self-motivation and respect. Her school is a tuition-free public charter school with a strong focus on language education, with instruction beginning in kindergarten. Her work fostering skills integral to student success on a global stage is a valuable lesson to educators around the country.

The award was presented to Ms. Jahn by the Visiting International Faculty Program, the largest international-exchange program connecting U.S. schools and teachers around the world.

Madam Speaker, please allow me to convey to Ms. Jahn this body's gratitude for her hard work and dedication.

#### TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women who have fallen in service to our country. This weekend, as we return home to celebrate Memorial Day with our friends and families, let us take time to reflect on the countless sacrifices that have been made by our men and women in uniform.

Since the founding of our nation, the men and women in our armed forces have served this country with honor. They have fought to defend and preserve our nation from forces that have threatened to divide our country and destroy our way of life. America is a better place for their courage and their service.

As a grateful nation, we cannot ignore our responsibility to repay those who have served in defense of our country. This means doing everything we can to provide our veterans with comprehensive health care that is affordable, accessible, and available for life.

Instead of honoring our promises to our veterans, this Administration has tried to turn a blind eye to their problems. This Administration has attempted to push the increasing costs of veterans' health care onto veterans by charging higher premium and deductibles and reducing the number of veterans eligible

for healthcare. It's absolutely unacceptable to propose forcing a greater financial burden on our nation's veterans. That's why I'm a proud cosponsor of H.R. 579, the Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act, which would protect our veterans from these unnecessary TRICARE fee increases. Our promise of affordable health care for our veterans is one that we must keep.

Additionally, the generation of veterans returning home from combat areas in Iraq and Afghanistan requires new resources to treat their medical needs. However, rather than re-investing in treatments for traumatic brain injuries (TBI), the Administration has barely scratched the surface of addressing the mental health needs of our veterans. That's why I'm a cosponsor of H.R. 1444, the Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act, which would require the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) to actively screen and develop long-term care programs for veterans suffering from TBI.

Furthermore, we must not allow the substandard care, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and dilapidated conditions at Walter Reed to symbolize our dedication to our veterans. I was pleased that the House unanimously passed H.R. 1538, the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act, which will reduce much of the bureaucracy that prevents veterans from receiving quality healthcare, require more caseworkers to be hired, improve the system enabling wounded soldiers to transition from active duty to the VA system, and create a system of patients advocates to hold the VA accountable for problems.

We cannot allow this Administration's record of broken promises to our veterans become an accepted standard of treatment. We can do better. I have introduced H.R. 508, the Bring the Troops Home and Iraq Sovereignty Restoration Act, which would require sufficient funding for veterans' health care every year and would guarantee broad physical and mental healthcare for our veterans.

Memorial Day reminds us that meeting the needs of our service men and women requires sustained commitment and determination. We have a moral obligation to ensure that our veterans have the benefits they need. Their profound dedication and patriotism deserve no less.

IN MEMORY OF RALPH BERING  
BUSCH, JR.

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend Ralph Bering Busch, Jr., MD, who passed away on May 23 at age 84.

Dr. Busch was a medical pioneer in Ventura County, California. In the 1960s, Dr. Busch and his partner, M. Kathleen Belton, MD, became the first anesthesiologists to practice in Ventura County. They covered St. John's Hospital in Oxnard, Santa Paula Memorial Hospital, Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura, and occasionally Ojai Valley Community Hospital. Dr. Busch served at Santa Paula Memorial Hospital for twenty years and retired from Community Memorial Hospital in 1989.

Dr. Busch came to California after serving in the South Pacific with the U.S. Navy for four

years, after graduating from high school, college, and medical school in the Midwest. He interned at University of Southern California, Los Angeles County Hospital and then practiced at St. Joseph's Hospital in Burbank for the next ten years.

In 1959, he married Deborah "Deedee" Bennett of Palm Springs. As their family grew, they decided to seek the country life of Ventura County. It was a good choice for them and for Ventura County. Ralph and Deedee have been blessed with six children and eighteen grandchildren.

In addition to his dedication to his practice and his family, Dr. Busch dedicated himself to the greater medical community and the community in which he lived. He was a past member of the California and American Societies of Anesthesiology, Ventura County Medical Society, Community Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, Ventura County Museum of History and Art Board of Directors, and Berry Petroleum Co. Board of Directors. He was a forty-five-year member of Saticoy Country Club.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering Dr. Ralph Bering Busch, Jr., as a good friend, a loving family man, a pioneer in Ventura County medicine, and one who worked to make his community stronger. In addition, I know my colleagues join me in extending our condolences to Deedee and their family and to all who called Ralph a friend.

Godspeed, Ralph.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT M.  
STEPTOE

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of a great patriot, public citizen, and revered member of his community, Mr. Robert M. Steptoe.

Born in Clarksburg, West Virginia on May 15, 1920, Mr. Steptoe grew up in north central West Virginia and thereafter attended Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia. He continued his studies at Haverford College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

At the outbreak of World War II, Mr. Steptoe served in the United States Navy as the commanding officer of two ships in the sub-chaser class. Mr. Steptoe was involved in the invasions of Sicily, Anzio, southern France, and a brief stint in the Southern Pacific. He retired from the United States Navy with the rank of lieutenant commander.

Following his service during World War II, Mr. Steptoe graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in February 1949 and began a career in law that spanned over 50 years of distinguished legal practice in Martinsburg, West Virginia. A member of the West Virginia State Bar, the West Virginia Bar Association, the Berkeley County Bar Association, and the United States Judicial Conference for the Fourth Circuit; Mr. Steptoe was awarded the Award of Merit by the West Virginia Bar Association in 2003 in recognition of his years of service.

Mr. Steptoe was also an active public servant who was elected to the West Virginia

House of Delegates for four terms and the West Virginia Senate for two terms. He also served as a judge of the West Virginia Court of Claims.

In addition to his professional activities, Mr. Steptoe was an active member of the Rotary, Trinity Episcopal Church, and a member of the Elks Club. Above all, Mr. Steptoe was a proud and dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Mr. Steptoe's life and accomplishments are truly representative of the courage, character and altruism that is often associated with members of our "Greatest Generation." West Virginia was well served by this great American and he will be sorely missed by those who knew him.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD L. BOUIE,  
SR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, many schools strive to excel in competition on the national level.

Ten years ago, the DeKalb County School system gave birth to Edward L. Bouie, Sr. Elementary School and named this extraordinary school for an extraordinary man.

For 10 years now under the leadership and guidance of the past and present principals, teachers, staff, parents, and students, this school has met and exceeded national standards.

The Edward L. Bouie, Sr. Elementary School family constantly demonstrates the will to win, the courage to win, the mechanics of teamwork and the astounding spirit of triumph gained from educating students to be the very best in leadership, scholarship, and service.

Our beloved county, children, and community will benefit from the fruits of that labor insuring that our district, our state and our nation will always be prosperous and productive.

This extraordinary school is celebrating the milestone of their 10th anniversary and I was pleased to proclaim May 18, 2007 as Edward L. Bouie, Sr. Elementary School Day in the 4th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING COLBY JOHN  
BUEHLER FOR ACHIEVING THE  
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colby John Buehler, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Colby has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Colby has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Colby John Buehler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Colby in the United States House of Representatives.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO NICK TOPPING

#### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and work of Nick Topping, a highly respected, social justice activist, music impresario and business owner. Mr. Topping died on May 9, 2007, at the age of 89.

Mr. Topping earned a degree in history and communications from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. During World War II, he was drafted and served in Army intelligence. When he returned, he founded a store named Topping and Company International House that he ran for over 50 years. The store stocked Greek and Middle Eastern food, books, and records from all over the world.

Mr. Topping was one of nine children born to Greek immigrant parents who ran a grocery store at South 4th Street and West National Avenue. Mr. Topping was born Nick Topitzes and changed his name at the age of 18 because of the discrimination Greeks faced at that time.

Nick Topping spent much of his lifetime working for peace and social justice. He marched with Father James Groppi over the 16th Street Viaduct during Milwaukee's civil rights struggle and took his daughters along on the marches with him. He belonged to the NAACP and became an early local protestor against the Vietnam War. Mr. Topping was also active in the growing south side Latino community and in the Chicano rights movement.

Mr. Topping was a promoter of ethnic and folk music concerts in the 1950s and '60s including singers such as: Miriam Makeba, from South Africa; Pete Seeger; Josh White; Peter, Paul & Mary; Bob Dylan; and Greek composer, Mikis Theodorakis, music composer for the movie *Zorba the Greek*. Nick Topping secured his place in modern Milwaukee history by securing the Beatles for their one and only Milwaukee concert on September 4, 1964. The concert quickly sold out with the most expensive ticket selling for \$5.50.

Nick Topping is survived by his wife of 56 years, Harriet; two daughters, Adele Fatemi-Topping and Alexandra Topping; a brother, Agamemnon (Memo); and a sister, Sandra Topitzes Brown, all of Milwaukee.

Madam Speaker, Milwaukee has experienced a profound loss with the passing of Nick Topping. Today, I thank him and his family for their immeasurable achievements. I mourn his loss and I salute his legacy.

#### TRIBUTE TO FRAN LUS

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Fran Lus for his 12 years of service to Chautauqua County. Mr. Lus is a wonderful example of what public service should be.

I would like briefly to touch on the many areas of service that Fran has been involved with. Fran was first elected to the Chautauqua County Legislature in 1995 as a representative of district 23 in Portland. He served as the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee. Mr. Lus is also a member of the Public Facilities Committee and serves as a delegate to the Inter-County Association of Western New York and is a member of the Cornell Co-operative Extension Board of Directors.

I must also acknowledge Mr. Lus' other interests. He serves as a member of the Stop DWI Committee, the Southern Tier Extension Rail Authority Board, is a life long member of the Southwestern N.Y. Volunteer Firemen's Association and an exempt fireman of the Brocton Fire Department. He was also a member of the Portland Volunteer Fire Department for 3 years. Fran was recently elected to the Brocton Central School Hall of Fame.

I am proud to mention that Mr. Lus served his country during the Korean Conflict from 1950 to 1954 as a member of the United States Air Force and is a life member and former commander of the John W. Dill post 434.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Fran on his wonderful job well done in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Fran, you will be missed by all of the constituents whose lives you touched. Enjoy your retirement!

#### HONORING DR. SPENCER FOREMAN

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, for more than two decades Dr. Spencer Foreman's leadership has made Montefiore Medical Center (MMC) one of the most forward thinking and academic medical centers in the country. He is a national health leader, and a respected expert in hospital administration and medicine. Dr. Foreman is a member of the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine, a former chairman of the Association of American Medical Colleges and a past trustee of the American Hospital Association. Annually, MMC treats more than 60,000 new patients, has more than 400,000 home visits, and 1.8 million outpatient visits. That, plus an annual budget of more than \$1.9 billion, makes it one of the largest academic medical centers in the country.

For more than a century, MMC has had a long and distinguished history of meeting the healthcare needs of New Yorkers and patients from around the world.

MMC is one of the most innovative medical centers in the country with a staff of brilliant doctors, nurses and associates on all levels

dedicated to giving every patient the highest quality care and service.

This did not happen by accident. The leadership of Dr. Foreman for over two decades led MMC to the top of its class.

I have always been proud to tell people that Montefiore Medical Center is in my Congressional district. It is a mainstay of health care in the Bronx which is famous throughout the world.

But more than that, I have always been delighted to say that Dr. Foreman has been my friend. Dr. Foreman took charge at Montefiore about the same time I came to Congress. For over 18 years we have worked together to better the healthcare system. I count him among my trusted advisors on the state of healthcare in our Nation.

What he has accomplished will continue for generations. He has created a model of health care efficiency to which it can truly be said that thousands owe their lives and well-being. I am proud of the work of Montefiore Medical Center. I am proud of the accomplishments of Dr. Foreman but even more so I am proud of my friend Spike.

#### IN HONOR OF THE SAINT FRANCIS SOUP KITCHEN

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the Saint Francis Soup Kitchen, which recently celebrated its 25th year of service in the Santa Cruz community. St. Francis is an organization founded and run by volunteers who love to help others. In the 25 years that it has been around, St. Francis has fed and clothed countless people who are in need. The city of Santa Cruz has approximately 400 people who are homeless, yet St. Francis is one way in which the community is trying to help the problem.

Father Peter Carota deserves special recognition as the founder of the St. Francis Soup Kitchen. In 1981, when still a layman, Peter sold his home and used the money to start St. Francis. Feeding the poor out of the back of a van, Peter Carota began his dream of running a soup kitchen to feed the homeless. A few years later, in 1983, Peter and some volunteers purchased the property of the current soup kitchen and St. Francis was born. Peter has since become a priest, but his work at St. Francis is carried on by devoted volunteers.

The soup kitchen was founded to help people in need and that is exactly what it does. The kitchen never turns a hungry person away and feeds up to 180 people at lunch every weekday. St. Francis not only provides free lunch every day to the homeless, it also operates a clothing room that provides donated clothes free of charge to guests. However, St. Francis could not function without the support of the dedicated volunteers and the help drawn from churches, high schools, UC Santa Cruz, and the broader community.

Madam Speaker, the St. Francis Soup Kitchen has contributed so much to the city of Santa Cruz and the surrounding community; I have only scratched the surface of its beneficial and compassionate dedication. I commend the St. Francis Soup Kitchen for all that

it has done in its 25 years, and I hope that it will continue for another 25 with the same service, attitude, and contribution to the community.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE JOSEPH  
RATTIGAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Mr. BACA, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. SUSAN DAVIS, Ms. ANNA G. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. HONDA, Ms. BARBARA LEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA SANCHEZ, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. STARK, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. MIKE THOMPSON, Ms. MAXINE WATERS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. HENRY WAXMAN, we rise with sadness today to honor our good friend and respected mentor, Justice Joseph Rattigan, who passed away after a long illness on May 12, 2007, in Santa Rosa, California. He was 87 years old.

Joe Rattigan is a legend in Sonoma County and in California. During a long career as an activist, a civic leader, a state legislator, and a jurist, he earned respect from all whose lives he touched, whether political ally or rival. Known for his eloquence, wit, intelligence, and passion, this remarkable man always had time for people and their concerns. He mentored other lawyers and judges as well as generations of Democratic politicians.

Born in 1920, Joe grew up in politics in Washington, DC, where his father was a law partner with Senator O'Mahoney from Wyoming. He attended Catholic University and, after graduating in 1940, worked briefly for the Department of Agriculture before joining the Navy to fight in WW II. He served as an intelligence officer and then commanded a PT boat in the Pacific, earning a decoration for heroism in combat.

After the war, Joe enrolled in Stanford Law School, graduating in 1948. He was part of a post-war generation of young lawyers who settled in California at that time and made their mark on a booming state. He soon joined a Santa Rosa law firm and plunged into local affairs and Democratic politics. He served as president of the Sonoma County Bar Association, county chairman for Adlai Stevenson's 1956 Presidential bid, and a member of the Santa Rosa Board of Public Utilities.

Joe jumped into electoral politics on his own behalf in 1958. He became the youngest state senator in the county's history at age 38, as the Democrats took back the legislature and Edmund G. "Pat" Brown became governor, ushering in a new golden era for California. He served two terms, authoring or co-authoring several key bills, including measures establishing medical care services for the elderly (a model for the Federal Medicare program), the Department of Rehabilitation, and the state university system. In 1960, his last-minute maneuvering created Sonoma State College (later University), which is now an integral part of the county as well as of the state's education system.

During his time in the legislature and his subsequent 18 years as a justice on the Court of Appeals for Northern California, Joe fought for the oppressed. Having grown up in a segregated city, he was fiercely opposed to discrimination. He supported the controversial Rumsford Fair Housing Act which ended the use of restrictive covenants in housing. He also carried the one-man, one-vote reapportionment measure that altered the way state senators were elected even at a personal cost. This measure split Sonoma County into two districts, causing Joe to lose his seat.

Principle always came before politics with Joe Rattigan. He fought against the death penalty, attempting to save convicted felon Caryl Chessman when he was a freshman Senator. It is widely believed that his principled opposition cost him a seat on the state Supreme Court. During his time as an appellate justice, however, he continued to make a mark on California; for example, he supported separation of church and state (despite his Catholic upbringing), championed a first in the nation requirement for cities and counties to adopt general plans, and wrote a decision overturning Black Panther Party leader Huey Newton's murder conviction, which was later upheld.

Joe is survived by Elizabeth (Betty), his wife of 65 years, whom he met in the second grade, by his six children—daughters Catharine Kalin and Anne Paine and sons Michael, Thomas, Patrick, and Timothy Rattigan—as well as 12 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, this week Sonoma County residents and people throughout California mourn the passing of Joseph Rattigan. Whether people agreed with him or not—and many in the far more conservative Sonoma County of the 50s and 60s did not—he was respected for his integrity, his political acumen, his sharp legal mind, and a heart as big as the Golden State. In 1997, the State Building in downtown Santa Rosa was named the Joseph Rattigan State Building. We would hope that those who pass through its doors into the bright sunlit foyer will stop for a moment and consider the greatest legacy of Joseph Rattigan: a life that demonstrated that good government isn't only desirable, it is possible.

SUPPORT FOR JWOD

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, people with disabilities are the largest minority group in the nation. They comprise 20 percent of the American population and represent every ethnicity, gender, and age. Given the breadth and depth of this group of citizens, it is startling that they suffer from a 65-percent unemployment rate. People with disabilities have the ability and desire to work, yet face many barriers to employment. I think it is incredibly important that we give people with disabilities equal opportunity and support for employment.

To that end, I am proud to support employment opportunities for people with disabilities, particularly through the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD)/AbilityOne Program. The JWOD/AbilityOne Program uses the purchasing

power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. Through this program, people with disabilities enjoy full participation in their community and are able to become self-sufficient wage earners and tax payers.

In the United States, the program serves approximately 43,000 people with disabilities and generated approximately \$360 million in wages earned and nearly \$1.8 billion in products sold. In Georgia alone, some 938 people with disabilities earned nearly \$9 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD/AbilityOne. I am particularly proud that the 4th Congressional District is home to a JWOD contract for switchboard services. This dedicated workforce of people with disabilities provides excellent 24/7 service to the Atlanta VA Medical Center for nearly 15 years.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize the great contributions of American workers with disabilities. I commend the JWOD Program, its supporters, and its participants for making a difference where it is needed most. America truly works best when all Americans work.

PARKER EVAN LONG FOR THE  
AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Parker Long, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Parker has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Parker has been involved in scouting, he has earned 30 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. Parker is also a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and will become a Warrior this summer.

For his Eagle Scout project, Parker constructed a new fire pit at the Parkhill Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Parker Long for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO SALLIE PULLANO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sallie Pullano for her years of service to Chautauqua County. Mrs. Pullano is a wonderful example of what public service should be.

I would like to briefly touch on the many areas of service that Sallie has been involved with. Since January 2000 she has served as

the Human Services Chair in the County Legislature. This committee oversees the Departments of Social Services, Youth, Aged, Health, Veterans, and Mental Health, and the County Home. There is no doubt that she will be missed in each of these areas. Sallie also has a special place in her heart for children and senior citizens.

I must also acknowledge Mrs. Pullano's other interests. She not only served as an integral member of the Chautauqua County Legislature for many years but she is actively involved in a leading role in the Dunkirk-Fredonia Breast Cancer Support Group and holds membership in the Partners for Prevention Coalition. She also serves on the boards of directors for Hospice Chautauqua and Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc., and is on the Chautauqua County Health Network Advisory Board.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Sallie on her wonderful job well done in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Sallie, you will be missed by all of the constituents whose lives you touched. Enjoy your retirement!

#### HOME INFUSION THERAPY COVERAGE ACT OF 2007

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues KAY GRANGER, TAMMY BALDWIN, CHIP PICKERING and RANDY KUHL in introducing the "Home Infusion Therapy Coverage Act of 2007". This bill would correct long-standing gaps in Medicare coverage for home infusion therapy, and will enable thousands of beneficiaries to obtain these often life-saving therapies in the most convenient and cost-effective setting—their homes.

Currently, most beneficiaries who have severe infections, cancer, congestive heart disease or numerous other diagnoses for which infusion therapy is the clear state-of-the-art treatment must be admitted into hospitals or nursing homes to receive this care. This is most unfortunate, Mr. Speaker. The private sector recognizes the clinical value and cost-effectiveness of home infusion therapy, and as a result full and proper coverage of home infusion therapy is commonplace among private payers. Medicare stands virtually alone in its antiquated coverage policies that discourage the use of a therapy that in actuality should be promoted for its cost savings and convenience.

Home infusion therapy requires the coordination of professional services, supplies and equipment to safely and effectively administer infusion drugs. Part D, the outpatient prescription drug benefit, covers most infusion drugs, but does not cover these services, supplies and equipment necessary to provide infusion therapy in the home. As a result, Part D coverage of home infusion falls far short of its potential to keep patients out of hospitals and nursing homes. Many beneficiaries must pay for the infusion services, supplies and equipment with out-of-pocket funds and most cannot afford this expense. Their only other realistic option is to obtain their care in a hospital or nursing home at a much higher cost burden to our Nation's healthcare system. The clear

result is that access to home infusion therapy, despite its potential for cost savings and good clinical outcomes, is needlessly limited.

Our bill is very simple in its approach. It would institute coverage for the home infusion-related services, supplies and equipment under Part B, while maintaining coverage of the drugs themselves under Part D. Medicare Part B clearly is the most appropriate part of the Medicare program for coverage of the non-drug components of the therapy. In addition, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services would apply quality standards that are consistent with the private sector's community standard of care. Both beneficiaries and the Medicare program itself would reap the benefits of broader access to these important medical treatments in the home.

I would like to note that this legislation is strongly supported by a broad coalition of infusion therapy stakeholders, including patient organizations, infusion pharmacies, infectious disease physicians, and manufacturers of infusion drugs. Along with my colleagues, I urge early consideration of this long-overdue bill.

#### HONORING THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Christian Reformed Church in North America, which is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding. The church is in the midst of a year-long series of observances and services centered on the theme "Grace Through Every Generation," in three phases of emphasis: Remembering, Rejoicing, and Rededicating.

The Christian Reformed Church (CRC) is a group of nearly a thousand Protestant churches in the United States and Canada. The CRC has its roots in the Reformation of the 16th century. In 1517, the Reformation divided the Christian church, and several Protestant denominations were born. One branch developed under the influence of theologians Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin. The "Presbyterian" church flourished in Scotland and the "Reformed" church in northern Europe, particularly in the Netherlands, with an emphasis on the sovereignty of God, faith in Him alone for salvation, and the preeminence of Scripture in worship.

Dutch Protestants brought their deep faith and their practical piety with them when they emigrated to the United States in the 1800s. My district in West Michigan has some of the deepest roots of Dutch-American history and heritage in the country. Dutch explorers, traders and settlers were a significant part of the earliest European exploration of the New World, especially in New York and New Jersey. However, the first major wave of Dutch immigration began in the 1840s with the Calvinists. Like so many of the original settlers here in America, they wanted more religious liberty than they experienced in their home country. They dared to journey across the Atlantic to New York and then moved across

northern New York and finally settled near the shores of Lake Michigan. Waves of Dutch settlers soon found Grand Rapids and Holland, Michigan, to be the places of stability and religious liberty they were seeking. In 1857, a group of four churches—about 130 families—officially broke from the Dutch Reformed Church and formed the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Throughout its 150 years, the CRC has maintained a commitment to the teachings of John Calvin as well as the great Dutch theologian, Abraham Kuyper, who called the church not only to holy living but to assert Jesus Christ's lordship over all of creation. This means that every aspect of life belongs to God, and every sphere of life—from schools to homes to businesses to government—can be a forum for learning more about God and helping to make the world a better place.

Throughout its 150 years, the CRC has wrestled with many of the same social issues faced by other churches and the country in general. The church's worldview has shaped its level of accommodation of different lifestyles and cultures, its discussions of ways to combat racism, its debates over the place of women in church leadership, and its consideration of the appropriate response to war and other international conflicts.

Throughout its 150 years, several CRC programs and ministries have developed and grown to reflect this worldview. This includes The Back to God Hour, the church's worldwide radio and Internet ministry program; Christian Reformed World Missions, supporting more than 300 missionaries in 30 countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia; the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, which provides financial assistance and recovery workers in response to disasters and establishes long-term self-promotion and sustainable living projects around the world; and Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary, the church's educational institutions that help equip students for lives of work in God's service in every field.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a member of this church denomination, which has helped me and millions of others through the last 150 years to worship God faithfully, to experience fellowship with other believers, and to provide spiritual and physical care to those in need. I commend its members during this special time of remembering, rejoicing and rededicating. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the CRC on its 150 years of service.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OF SERGEANT IOSIWO URUO, UNITED STATES ARMY

**HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, some men become heroes on the battlefield; some are heroes in their communities, even before they go off to battle. With much sadness, I rise to say that Guam and the island of Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia have lost such a hero. Army SGT Iosiwo Uruo, who died on May 24, 2007 in Buhriz, Iraq, in support of



Operation Iraq Freedom, was well known and well liked in his home village of Agana Heights for his friendly but quiet, and humble nature.

Fondly known to family and friends as "Siwo," Sergeant Uruo was born in Chuuk on November 29, 1979. His family moved to Guam in 1987 and they were befriended by Agana Heights Mayor Paul McDonald and his family, and the two families became close friends. Siwo's passing deeply grieves both families.

Sergeant Uruo attended Agana Heights Elementary School and Agueda Johnston Middle School. He graduated from George Washington High School in 2000, the first in his family to earn a diploma. Siwo was involved in the high school's ROTC Program and played football for GWHS for several years. In Agana Heights, Iosiwo participated in sporting events such as baseball and softball; he was part of the Mayor's Youth for Hire Program, to help village youths earn money by doing yard work or general cleaning, and the Agana Heights "Fun In The Sun" Summer Program, as youth worker. He also was a member of Troop 22 of the Boy Scouts of America, Agana Heights.

Sergeant Uruo was the proverbial 'good son,' hardworking, respectful, and obedient. He enlisted in the Army after graduating from high school because he wanted to serve his country.

On behalf of the People of Guam and a grateful nation, I extend heartfelt condolences and profound sympathy to Sergeant Uruo's parents, Isaoshy and Iosita; his sisters, Isabel and Josephine; his brothers, Iosiwo, Joshua, Alanser, and Ivan; his sisters-in-law, Fatima and Jonea; and nephew Iverson; as well as to his all of his extended family and friends, especially Mayor Paul and Elaine McDonald and their family. Siwo was a caring son, a loving brother, and a proud American patriot.

#### RECOGNIZING HEATHER KNUDSON

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievement of Heather Knudson on winning the National Associated Christian Schools International (ACSI) Spelling Bee.

Heather placed second in the regional ACSI Spelling Bee, which took place February 24, in Dallas Texas. Heather then went on to win first place in the National Spelling Bee on May 12, 2007 in Washington, D.C. The contest brought in 46 of the top spellers from around the country, which was narrowed down from 15,000 participants.

By correctly spelling the word, "syzygy" which means, an alignment of three celestial objects, as the sun, the earth, and either the moon or a planet, Heather won a laptop computer, a \$200 saving bond and the distinct honor of placing a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Heather is an outstanding and bright young woman. She has recently completed the eighth grade at Life Christian Academy in Kansas City. Extremely dedicated, she studied approximately 2,500 words in preparation for the contest. She was able to remember her winning word, which she studied years ago, because it is such an unusual word.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the achievement of Heather Knudson on winning first place in the National Associated Christian Schools International Spelling Bee. It is an honor to represent her in the United States Congress.

#### TRIBUTE TO PHILIP M. KAISER

##### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Philip M. Kaiser, an extraordinary public servant, diplomat, husband, father, grandfather, and a friend of mine.

Mr. Kaiser was born in Brooklyn on July 12th, 1913. He attended the University of Wisconsin and was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford University upon graduation.

Mr. Kaiser first served his country under President Truman as Assistant Secretary of Labor. He went on to represent the United States as Ambassador to Senegal, Austria, and Hungary under Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Carter. During this period, Mr. Kaiser became well-known for his diplomatic abilities, successfully fostering U.S. relations with Hungary and Senegal at a time when communism was on the rise across the globe.

More recently, Mr. Kaiser contributed to the new Democratic majority through his support of 4 successful Democratic congressional candidates, including myself, in 2006.

Phil Kaiser was the type of man who held strong convictions and followed through on his beliefs. He made the most of any position he accepted, and always stayed true to himself and his values. Mr. Kaiser's life is a model of patriotism and dedication.

Phil Kaiser was the patriarch of a beautiful family. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Hannah, his sons Charles, Robert, and David, and his 4 grandchildren.

I am honored to have known such an incredible, dedicated, passionate, and patriotic man. His contributions to his country, his love for his family, and his spirit will remain an inspiration.

#### NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

##### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Hunger Awareness Day and to honor the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), which is located in my congressional district.

National Hunger Awareness Day was established to help inform individuals, communities, corporations and policy makers that hunger is a severe domestic issue and deserves our critical attention. It is part of a grassroots effort to raise awareness about the solvable problem of hunger in America.

AFAC's sole mission is to feed the hungry. AFAC obtains food at no cost from local bak-

eries, supermarkets, food drives and private donors. This important work allows their clients to make other necessary purchases, such as paying for rent and utilities, without having to sacrifice their health and nutritional needs.

Despite the fact that Arlington County is one of the wealthiest areas in the country, too many local residents do not have enough to eat. AFAC seeks to remedy this problem by distributing bread, vegetables, meat, milk, eggs and other food items to those families in Arlington who cannot afford these dietary. Volunteers at AFAC currently distribute groceries to nearly 700 families each week. Nearly half of the people getting food from AFAC are children.

I would like to commend the staff and volunteers of the Arlington Food Assistance Center who work hard to provide needy families in Arlington with groceries each week. I urge my constituents to donate food to AFAC through a food drive on June 5th.

#### TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY WALSH

##### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Dorothy Walsh. Dorothy is the owner of Dorothy Walsh Fine Clothes, in Northport New York. Dorothy Walsh Fine Clothes is a women's boutique known for an exclusive inventory that runs the gamut, from bridal gowns and dresses for special occasions to trendy sportswear.

The very special shop has the distinction of being one of Main Street's oldest businesses, opened in 1950 under the name of Esther Stevens Fine Clothes. Dorothy said she responded to an ad in the newspaper and her first responsibilities as an employee there included bookkeeping and checking in merchandise. Dorothy took over this business in 1994. She will be retiring from this business in August of this year.

We, as clientele, have reaped the benefit of her flair for fashion and meticulous attention to detail, captured in the eye-catching store displays juxtaposing the right colors and accessories. The store became the place to go, not only because Dorothy's taste was impeccable but also because she gave us, her customers, the unparalleled experience of feeling as if we were shopping with a knowledgeable and reassuring friend. I have been shopping with Dorothy for 10 years and would always find the perfect blouse for my suits, a special scarf for a holiday or a gift for my daughter-in-law. (Wrapped, by Dorothy, of course.)

Time spent in the store always was sprinkled with local news and general discussion of political and national events. During the stressful time debating gun violence in this country, we would get a call from Dorothy with encouraging words to keep up the good fight. How grateful I am for her kindness and thoughtfulness.

Dorothy Walsh is a member of the Northport family. She has lived there for more than 30 years and was recently acknowledged by the Northport Historical Society and Museum for years of commitment. She has always supported the community and never said "no".



For the last four years, as a member of the Northport Chamber of Commerce, Dorothy has orchestrated Operation Warmth, calling upon the community to donate gently used coats, jackets, gloves and scarves to be distributed to the needy. She has been an integral part of the beautification projects throughout the seasons—bringing her special and tasteful touch to Main Street's outdoor displays.

Madam Speaker, those people who have been lucky enough to know Dorothy and shopped at her store, will miss this special place. We are happy to know that Dorothy will still be in Northport, active in the chamber, her community and her church. Most particularly, Dorothy will be able to have more time for herself and her beloved family. Lucky for us she will still be in Northport. I am grateful to have Dorothy as my friend. I ask that you, and all my colleagues wish Dorothy great success in her next adventure and praise her as a great citizen.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2206, the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Act of 2007." I concur in House Amendment No. 1 to the Senate Amendment because I believe in doing all we can to support our troops. But I cannot concur in House Amendment No. 2 to the Senate Amendment because there is a limit to the patience of the American people. They have been waiting for more than four years for the Bush Administration to develop a successful policy in Iraq and for the Iraqi Government to take responsibility for the security of the Iraqi people.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us makes emergency supplemental appropriations for the Iraq War and additional supplemental appropriations for agricultural and other emergency assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007.

This emergency supplemental provides \$120 billion primarily for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and for improving the health care for returning soldiers and veterans. It also provides for the continued recovery of the Gulf Coast from the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina and fills major gaps in homeland security.

Specifically, the agreement provides \$99.5 billion for the Defense Department for continued military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The legislation includes a \$1 billion increase for the National Guard and Reserve equipment and \$1.1 billion for military housing. The supplemental legislation provides \$3 billion (\$1.2 billion more than the President's request) for the purchase of Mine Resistant Am-

bush Protected Vehicles (MRAP)—vehicles designed to withstand roadside bombs.

Mr. Speaker, included in the bill is \$4.8 billion to ensure that troops and veterans receive the health care that they have earned with their service and another \$6.4 billion to rebuild the Gulf Coast and help the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. There is also emergency funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) totals more than \$650 million. Finally, Homeland security investments total more than \$1 billion, including funds for port security and mass transit security, for explosives detection equipment at airports, and for several initiatives in the 9/11 bill that recently passed the Senate.

Most important, Mr. Speaker, this legislation includes the benchmarks and reporting requirements that were contained in the Warner Amendment in the Senate, which specifies 18 benchmarks for measuring progress by the Iraqi government, including the benchmarks that President Bush laid out on January 10. But they do not include the timelines included in prior versions of the supplemental that Americans approve, support, and demand.

The Warner Amendment requires the President to submit *two reports* to Congress on the progress of the Iraqi government on meeting the 18 benchmarks—one by July 15, 2005 and the second by September 15, 2007. If the President fails to certify progress on each of the 18 benchmarks in the September report, the Iraqi government would lose the economic aid being provided by the United States unless the President exercises his authority to waive the certification requirement in accordance with the procedures set forth in the bill. The amendment also requires an *independent report* from the General Accounting Office by September 1, 2007 on the progress of the Iraqi government in meeting the 18 benchmarks.

Mr. Speaker, in vetoing the previous emergency supplemental, the President claimed it will "undermine our troops and threaten the safety of the American people here at home." Coming from an Administration that has been wrong on every important question relating to the decision to launch the Iraq War as well the conduct of it, this claim is laughable. It is nearly as ridiculous as the President's often stated claim of "progress" in Iraq. The facts, of course, are otherwise.

The U.S. death toll in Iraq reached 83 in just the first 7 days of May—making it the deadliest month of the year and one of the deadliest of the entire war. It is therefore little wonder that nearly 70% of Americans disapprove of the way the President is handling the war. But more important, the President's claim that the Iraq Accountability Act undermines our troops and threatens the safety of the American people here at home is simply not true.

Mr. Speaker, to date, the war in Iraq has lasted longer than America's involvement in World War II, the greatest conflict in all of human history. But there is a difference. The Second World War ended in complete and total victory for the United States and its allies. But then again, in that conflict America was led by FDR, a great Commander-in-Chief, who had a plan to win the war and secure the peace, listened to his generals, and sent troops in sufficient numbers and sufficiently trained and equipped to do the job.

As a result of the colossal miscalculation in deciding to invade Iraq, the loss of public trust resulting from the misrepresentation of the reasons for launching that invasion, and the breath taking incompetence in mismanaging the occupation of Iraq, the Armed Forces and the people of the United States have suffered incalculable damage.

The war in Iraq has claimed the lives of 3,431 brave servicemen and women. More than 25,378 Americans have been wounded, many suffering the most horrific injuries. American taxpayers have paid nearly \$400 billion to sustain this misadventure.

By vetoing the bipartisan Iraq Accountability Act last week, the President vetoed the will of the American people. The President vetoed a responsible funding bill for the troops that would have provided more funding for our troops and military readiness than even the President requested.

By vetoing the Iraq Accountability Act, the President rejected a bill that reflects the will of the American people to wind down this war. By vetoing the Iraq Accountability Act, the President turned a deaf ear to the loud message sent by the American people last November.

That is why I will proudly vote for H.R. 2206. This legislation places the responsibility for bringing peace and security where it clearly belongs and that is squarely on the shoulders of the Iraqi government. The legislation crafted by the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee in consultation with the leadership and the members of the Democratic Caucus moves us closer to the day when we end the misguided invasion, war, and occupation of Iraq. It puts us on the glide path to the day when our troops come home in honor and triumph and where we can "care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan."

Mr. Speaker, in passing H.R. 2206, this House will be doing the business and expressing the will of the American people. In the latest CBS News/New York Times poll, 64 percent of Americans favor a timetable that provides for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq in 2008. In the same poll, 57 percent of Americans believe that Congress, not the President, should have the last say when it comes to setting troop levels in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, in passing H.R. 2206, Congress is fulfilling its constitutional responsibilities and exercising the first check on the President's power in six years. As Iraq Study Group Co-Chairman Lee Hamilton has pointed out, "The founders of our nation never envisioned an unfettered president making unilateral decisions about American lives and military power. They did indeed make the president the commander in chief, but they gave to Congress the responsibility for declaring war, for making rules governing our land and naval forces, for overseeing policy, and of course the ability to fund war or to cease funding it."

Mr. Speaker, the President demands a blank check to escalate the war in Iraq against the will of the Congress and the American people. The Constitution does not require it, he certainly has not earned it, and I am not prepared to give it to him. That is why I cannot concur in House Amendment No. 2 to the Senate Amendment. I do concur in House Amendment No. 1 and I urge all members to join me.

HONORING DR. FRED P. CARTER

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Fred P. Carter, a resident of my congressional district who recently announced his plans to retire as Superintendent of the Glasgow Independent School District.

For the past 34 years, Dr. Carter has made educating the children of the Commonwealth his top priority. The Glasgow School District has experienced remarkable growth during his tenure resulting in steady student grade improvement. Student performance on Kentucky's CATS test has improved each of the five years he was in charge, climbing into the state's top ten three years ago. Dr. Carter also oversaw the construction of the Highland Elementary School in Glasgow and the instillation of interactive classroom technology in every school across the district.

In retirement, Dr. Carter plans to concentrate on other aspects of his life including his faith and his family. On behalf of countless friends and neighbors in the Glasgow area, I would like to thank Dr. Carter for his many selfless years of service to Kentucky school children.

It is my great privilege to recognize Dr. Fred P. Carter today, before the entire House of Representatives, for his indelible contributions to the Barren County community. He is an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Carter a very happy and healthy retirement.

**BRAVO TO THE AUSSIES****HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, one of my constituents, Rip Kirby, sent me the following article and asked that it be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Kirby was the Founder of the Baseball Chapel for the minor leagues of professional baseball. He is a respected Christian leader and an outstanding American.

Many people in this Country and really all over the world are becoming fed up with "political correctness."

I would like to call this article to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

**BRAVO TO THE AUSSIES**

I had seen this before, but felt it worth sending again and again to see if our government can have the guts to follow suit.

If anyone has a link to the White House, send it. Though doubt that anything will be done. But maybe in time we can make a difference with as many decent politicians we can elect.

This country needs to get God and human decency back into our society and stop letting others take advantage of our freedoms.

I and most Americans see nothing wrong with the stance that Australia has taken. They deserve our applause.

Muslims who want to live under Islamic Sharia law were told on Wednesday to get out of Australia, as the government targeted radicals in a bid to head off potential terror attacks.

A day after a group of mainstream Muslim leaders pledged loyalty to Australia and her Queen at a special meeting with Prime Minister John Howard, he and his Ministers made it clear that extremists would face a crackdown. Treasurer Peter Costello, seen as their apparent to Howard, hinted that some radical clerics could be asked to leave the country if they did not accept that Australia was a secular state, and its laws were made by parliament. "If those are not your values, if you want a country which has Sharia law or a theocratic state, then Australia is not for you", he said on National Television.

"I'd be saying to clerics who are teaching that there are two laws governing people in Australia: one the Australian law and another Islamic law, that is false. If you can't agree with parliamentary law, independent courts, democracy, and would prefer Sharia law and have the opportunity to go to another country, which practices it, perhaps, then, that's a better option", Costello said.

Asked whether he meant radical clerics would be forced to leave, he said those with dual citizenship could possibly be asked to move to the other country. Education Minister Brendan Nelson later told reporters that Muslims who did not want to accept local values should "clear off. Basically people who don't want to be Australians, and who don't want to live by Australian values and understand them, well then, they can basically clear off", he said.

Separately, Howard angered some Australian Muslims on Wednesday by saying he supported spy agencies monitoring the nation's mosques.

Quote: "IMMIGRANTS, NOT AUSTRALIANS, MUST ADAPT. Take It or Leave It. I am tired of this nation worrying about whether we are offending some individual or their culture. Since the terrorist attacks on Bali, we have experienced a surge in patriotism by the majority of Australians."

"However, the dust from the attacks had barely settled when the 'politically correct' crowd began complaining about the possibility that our patriotism was offending others. I am not against immigration, nor do I hold a grudge against anyone who is seeking a better life by coming to Australia." "However, there are a few things that those who have recently come to our country, and apparently some born here, need to understand." "This idea of Australia being a multi-cultural community has served only to dilute our sovereignty and our national identity. And as Australians, we have our own culture, our own society, our own language and our own lifestyle." "This culture has been developed over two centuries of struggles, trials and victories by millions of men and women who have sought freedom" "We speak mainly English, not Spanish, Lebanese, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, or any other language. Therefore, if you wish to become part of our society . . . Learn the language!"

"Most Australians believe in God. This is not some Christian, right wing, political push, but a fact, because Christian men and women, on Christian principles, founded this nation, and this is clearly documented. It is certainly appropriate to display it on the walls of our schools. If God offends you, then I suggest you consider another part of the world as your new home, because God is part of our culture." "We will accept your beliefs, and will not question why. All we ask is that you accept ours, and live in harmony and peaceful enjoyment with us."

"If the Southern Cross offends you, or you don't like "A Fair Go", then you should seri-

ously consider a move to another part of this planet. We are happy with our culture and have no desire to change, and we really don't care how you did things where you came from. By all means, keep your culture, but do not force it on others. "This is Our Country, Our Land, and Our Lifestyle, and we will allow you every opportunity to enjoy all this. But once you are done complaining, whining, and griping about Our Flag, Our Pledge, Our Christian beliefs, or Our Way of Life, I highly encourage you take advantage of one other great Australian freedom, 'The Right To Leave'."

"If you aren't happy here then Leave. We didn't force you to come here. You asked to be here. So accept the country You accepted."

Maybe if we circulate this amongst ourselves, American citizens will find the backbone to start speaking and voicing the same truths!

**NICOLAS E. BENNETT FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT****HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicolas E. Bennett, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicolas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Nicolas has been involved in scouting, he has earned 30 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Troop Quartermaster, and Patrol Leader. Parker is also a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, he chose the name of Fast Cheetah, and achieved the rank of Fire Builder.

For his Eagle Scout project, Nicolas helped with the re-construction of a Rosary Garden for St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church of Gladstone, MO.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicolas Bennett, for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**RECOGNIZING THE LAS VEGAS SPRINGS PRESERVE PROJECT****HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Las Vegas Springs Preserve project, and how this one-of-a-kind interactive, historical and educational facility will forever preserve and sustain the original springs where Las Vegas was established.

When it opens in June, this \$250 million non-gaming cultural and historical attraction will offer a fun, educational and recreational gathering place to commemorate Las Vegas' dynamic history and provide a vision for a sustainable future. The Preserve will feature a series of historic museums, galleries, outdoor

concerts, events, an interpretive trail system, a botanical garden and the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society where Nevadans and tourists alike will find a unique, educational experience about the history of Las Vegas.

Seeking the rich California coast, Spanish traders of the early 19th Century forged a path west that became known as the Old Spanish Trail. Upon discovering a vale of sanctuary, they named it "Las Vegas"—Spanish for "The Meadows." In the years that followed, the Las Vegas Springs welcomed weary travelers, explorers, traders, settlers and Mormon missionaries—all of them drawn here by one common denominator—water from the springs.

Enticing many to remain and make use of its waters, land near the springs was purchased by the railroad, which created the Las Vegas town site. It was water from the natural springs that powered the railroads' steam locomotives. In later years, the Nevada Legislature created the Las Vegas Valley Water District. Among the Water District's inherited holdings was the Las Vegas Springs property.

In 1978, the 180-acre Springs Preserve, located approximately three miles west of downtown Las Vegas, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site represents one of the richest and most unique cultural and biological resources in Southern Nevada. As the largest commercial straw-bale construction project in the United States, the Preserve is erecting seven new green buildings intended to join an elite list of buildings nationwide that have achieved "Platinum" Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

Today, the Springs Preserve site is still owned by the Water District—a steward of water resources in the Valley for more than 50 years. During this time, human progress has surrounded this timeless plot of land, but operational wells and water distribution facilities saved the site from development. The Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Springs Preserve Foundation have formed a public-private partnership that will serve as a unique model for teaching cultural and environmental sustainability. Beginning next month, the story of the Las Vegas Springs will be told through both guided and self-guided tours, interpretive stations and several museum galleries.

As the representative of Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me immense pride to recognize this outstanding and unique educational facility in the heart of my congressional district. With this example of pioneering preservation, sustainable construction and innovative education, visitors to the Las Vegas Springs Preserve will be inspired by what they see and be motivated to implement the ideals of preserving our past, while simultaneously creating a livable future.

Again, I proudly urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this outstanding public-private educational facility.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ANDREW  
WEATHERSTONE

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Andrew Weatherstone on the

occasion of his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel on June 1, 2007. Andy is an Army Fellow in my Congressional office this year, and he is an extraordinary soldier and human being.

He is a great leader, a motivator of men and women in his command, a seeker of creative solutions . . . an officer uniquely suited to the United States Army at a moment we need all the great soldiers and officers we can get.

We were lucky to get Andy this year; his last assignment was in Iraq. So my team and I have had the benefit of his counsel at a pivotal moment in our history, as we seek solutions to the ongoing conflict in Iraq and the many readiness issues Iraq has highlighted.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee, with a Masters from the University of Central Michigan, Andy is a soldier's soldier. He came up through the ranks, starting as a platoon leader and battery officer in 1993, to operating a 1,200 strong Task Force and a Forward Operating Base in Taji, Iraq, in 2004.

Andy understands the needs of a battlefield soldier; and he understands the political machinations that surround the conduct of our military policy. He may not be patient with that, but few of us are these days.

He understands that democracy must be defended; and he knows that democracy means involving everybody and all opinions in determining policy.

He knows that freedom is not free, and in wearing the uniform of the United States he is one of those paying the price for all our freedoms on battlefields around the world.

Andy's story would not be complete without including his wife, Jennifer, his "champ," and their daughters Lauren and Elizabeth. Andy got to be home when Elizabeth was born this year.

For all that he has learned in the field, in combat, in training, and in teaching other soldiers . . . LTC Andy Weatherstone will be a remarkable leader in the U.S. Army.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Andy—and his family—on the occasion of his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 22, 2007, I was unavoidably detained on official business.

I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 395: "No." On motion to recommit with instructions (H.R. 1427).

#### IN LASTING MEMORY OF HAROLD VENABLE

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Harold Venable, of Grady, AR, who passed away June 4, 2007, at the age of 78.

Mr. Venable had two passions—farming and public service. He served on the Lincoln County Quorum Court for 24 years and was a member of the Grady City Council. Mr. Venable was a retired farmer recognized as an accomplished agriculturist who won multiple awards at the Arkansas State Fair and was a past recipient of the Farm Family of the Year Award.

Mr. Venable spent a lifetime giving back to his community and his dedication and numerous contributions to agriculture will never be forgotten. Anyone who ever knew him will always remember his smile and good-natured spirit as he always made time for anyone who wanted to talk.

Perhaps most important was Mr. Venable's gracious nature which he bestowed upon his fellow man, something that was deep-seated in his strong faith. He was an active, lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of Grady where he served as a Deacon. In addition, his humble influence and natural ability to lead was evident in all he did. He was a charter member and past President of the Grady Lion's Club, a member of the Long Lake Drainage Board, the Lincoln County Farm Bureau, and the Big Island Hunting Club.

My deepest condolences go to his beloved wife of 59 years, Charlene Venable of Grady; his two daughters, Sondra Ashcroft of Pine Bluff and Billie Issacs of Grady; his three grandchildren Lee Drake of Star City, Christian Ashcraft of Pine Bluff and Britten Ashcraft of Pine Bluff; and to his three brothers Clyde Venable of Grady, Leonard Venable of Little Rock, and Robert Venable of Grady. Harold Venable will be greatly missed in Grady, Lincoln County, and throughout the state of Arkansas.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 2317, LOBBYING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2007 AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2316, HONEST LEADERSHIP AND OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, today we stand on the verge of passing two pieces of lobby reform legislation that mark an important step toward greater transparency and accountability for Congress. This is a welcome and much-needed response to the growing dissatisfaction of the American people, who do not approve of the increasing role and influence that special interests have on our democracy. There is, however, much more that Congress must do.

In the November 2008 election, the American people made it clear that the corruption that has been seeping into government cannot be tolerated. It is now the task of Congress to raise the standards of ethics in lobbying and campaign finance in order to meet the expectations of the public. We must take action now to remove the grip that private money has on our democracy. I urge my colleagues to support these lobbying reform measures on the floor today, but believe our work is not yet done.

We must break the link between private financing of campaigns and the electoral process. During the 109th Congress, Chairman OBEY introduced legislation to do just that. His bill would have set specific expenditure limitations for general elections, established the Grassroots Good Citizenship Fund to provide public funding for House candidates' expenditures, and banned independent expenditures in House elections. This bill would take money laden with strings and political debts out of House elections. I cosponsored this bill last Congress, and I hope Chairman OBEY will be reintroducing it soon.

We must also take the job of reorganizing districts out of the realm of partisan politics and special interests. H.R. 543, the Fairness and Independence in Redistricting Act of 2007, introduced by Representative JOHN TANNER, would establish an independent commission for the purpose of doing the work of redistricting. I am a cosponsor of this legislation, and hope that this Congress will look very seriously at passing it.

We must utilize the public airways to make campaigns less costly. Most of what is spent in an election is spent on advertising. We can change this. By fairly utilizing publicly owned airways to run campaign ads, the exorbitant cost of campaigns can be reduced, and the associated fundraising, and perceived corruption could be curbed.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. WESS STAFFORD'S 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY AT COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Wess Stafford's 30th anniversary with Compassion International. A widely respected child advocacy organization, Compassion International has helped over one and a half million children since its inception in 1952 and currently operates in 24 developing countries worldwide.

Dr. Stafford began his work with this worthy group on May 1, 1977 and was elected its president in 1993. Raised by missionary parents in a poverty-stricken town in the Ivory Coast, Dr. Stafford witnessed first hand, immense suffering and tragedy. This experience led him to become a passionate advocate for children all over the world. An admirable Christian, Dr. Stafford believes that all human life is precious and deserves to be protected and cherished; a value he extols in his book *Too Small to Ignore*.

The mission of Compassion is to "release children from poverty in Jesus' name," and Dr. Stafford has tried to do just that. Today, the organization not only provides a child sponsorship program, it has also put into action an AIDS Initiative, Child Survival Program, and Leadership Development Program. Since becoming its leader, Dr. Stafford has increased the number of children served by Compassion from 180,000 to over 800,000.

Dr. Stafford's evident enthusiasm for his work and selfless dedication to the service of others are a true inspiration. He and those with whom he works are undeterred by the

enormity of the problems they seek to solve. Rather than feeling that the mission is an insurmountable challenge, they understand that victory is achieved when one life is saved. Today I offer Dr. Stafford my congratulations on this milestone and appreciation for his work. I am proud and humbled by the privilege of representing him, and all of those who are a part of Compassion International.

TRIBUTE TO JIM BURGER

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Burger, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Helsel Lumber, who has been named the Small Business Association's Regional Exporter of the Year. Jim was presented with this award at the SBA's annual awards luncheon on May 25th in Pittsburgh, PA, and will also be recognized at the St. Francis University Small Business Development Center's annual luncheon on June 12th.

The SBA Exporter of the Year is chosen from companies in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, DC. This award recognizes exceptional business professionals whose business has seen an increase in sales and profits as well as growth in the number of employees as a result of exporting. Jim was nominated by the St. Francis University Small Business Development Center.

Mr. Burger began his career with Helsel Lumber, an exporting company in Duncansville, PA, at the age of 16 as an after-school job, returning to the mill full time after graduating from Penn State University and working his way up to vice president and co-owner of the facility in 2001. As vice president, Jim has worked tirelessly to lead the business to become an active and successful exporting company. His efforts have paid off, as Helsel Lumber has grown to include export sales to Europe and Asia and has recently done significant work in China. Helsel Lumber received an Export Achievement Award from the U.S. Commercial Service in 2006.

Jim has made a significant contribution not only to the betterment of Helsel Lumber, but to the region's economic growth and success as well. Our small business leaders are key to the continued economic vitality and success of our communities. The company and the community are lucky to have such a devoted leader, and the members of our community who have benefited from the efforts of Helsel Lumber and Jim Burger would certainly join me in thanking him for his contributions to the community and economy.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, more than three million American women are currently living with breast cancer. The American Can-

cer Society estimates that this year, approximately 179,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed among women in the United States and that 41,000 women will die from the disease. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), breast cancer will affect one in eight women over the course of their lifetime. Although important advances have been made in screening for and treating breast cancer, we still do not know what causes this disease, or how to prevent it.

There is currently a dearth of studies providing conclusive evidence regarding the effects of environmental factors such as pesticides and other toxins on the development of breast cancer. Further study of these and many other factors, suspected of playing a role but not yet comprehensively examined, could be invaluable in helping to prevent breast cancer.

Many of us have voiced our support for this critical research by co-sponsoring the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act over several Congresses. The legislation, H.R. 1157 in the 110th Congress, would authorize \$40 million a year for five years for the National Institutes of Health to make grants on a competitive, peer-reviewed basis, for the creation of multi-disciplinary Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Centers of Excellence. The Centers would be the first federally funded entities established specifically to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment. The Centers would be required to collaborate with community organizations such as those representing women with breast cancer.

Breast cancer is a disease that has unfortunately touched the lives of almost every family in our country. Those of us who have supported programs such as the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and the DOD Breast Cancer Research program must be equally willing to support efforts to uncover the causes of this terrible disease. H.R. 1157 is an important piece of legislation and I urge my colleagues to support it.

TRIBUTE TO THIRLEE SMITH, SR.

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thirlee Smith, Sr., one of the preeminent role models of our community. A man of great repute and high standing who enriched the lives of so many community members throughout Miami, Thirlee Smith, Sr. lived a meaningful and fulfilling life dedicated to the betterment of our society through acts of good will.

We have lost an outstanding leader, but we are blessed to have been touched by his greatness. It is our collective responsibility to carry forward and continue the good works and deeds that Thirlee Smith, Sr. practiced on a daily basis.

Thirlee Smith, Sr. led voter registration drives throughout the community, because he understood that voting is a civil right. Thirlee Smith, Sr. stood at the forefront of this civil rights voter registration fight. Our democracy is more vibrant, our community is better represented, and our voices are now heard thanks to his tireless efforts.

Thirlee Smith, Sr. was born in Timpson, Texas on June 2, 1912, the second oldest of six children born to his loving parents. In the late 1930s, Thirlee Smith, Sr. married Beulah Finley, and built a three bedroom home in Liberty City which still stands to this day. Together Thirlee, Sr. and Beulah raised three outstanding children, who contributed to our community in their own right: Odessa S. Felder Cook, a retired Miami-Dade County Public School teacher; Thirlee Smith, Jr., a former Miami-Dade County Public School administrator and the first Black reporter for The Miami Herald; and the Honorable Frederica Wilson, my Florida State Senator.

Thirlee, Sr. was a 20-year member of the Revival Tabernacle Assembly of God under the leadership of retired Rev. Selwyn Scott,

and served there as a deacon for many years, mentoring children and young adults. Thirlee, Sr. left this world a better place, and now, he returns home to a greater place in God's heavenly kingdom alongside his beloved Beulah Finley Smith.

It is only appropriate that on Friday, March 2, 2007, the city of Opa-Locka held a street naming ceremony in honor of Thirlee Smith, Sr. across the street from the billiard parlor where he registered members of the Black community to vote, led a community drive that resulted in the sanitation workers of Opa-Locka being issued uniforms and pay raises, and dispensed sage-like political and personal advice to friends who were also his patrons.

A husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend, Thirlee, Sr.

was a family man who leaves behind his devoted daughters; Odessa Felder Cook (Carliss), and Frederica S. Wilson; five loving grandchildren, Chandra Stephens (Clyde), Kimberly Emmanuel (Nicholas), Lakesha Wilson-Rochelle (Shelly) and Paul Wilson, Jr. (Farrah); five great-grand children, Cailey and Clifford Stephens, Najee and Chelsey Emmanuel, and Triston Paul Wilson; and nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends in Miami, Milwaukee, California, Texas and the Bahamas.

A man of great faith and spirituality who was the patriarch of a family that continues to serve our community with the highest levels of distinction, Thirlee Smith, Sr. left our world a better place than the world in which he entered.